

**MGL Chapter 272, Sec. 80 D**  
**Retail Sale of Baby Chicks, Ducklings,**  
**Rabbits, Etc.**

No person shall sell, offer for sale, barter or give away as premiums living baby chickens, ducklings or other fowl under two months of age.

No person shall sell, offer for sale, barter, display or give away living rabbits, chickens, ducklings, or other fowl which have been dyed, colored or otherwise treated so as to impart to them an artificial color.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the sale or display of baby chickens, ducklings, or other fowl under two months of age by breeders or stores engaged in the business of selling for purposes of commercial breeding and raising; provided, however, that prior to May first in any year, such ducklings may be sold or purchased only in quantities of twenty-four or more.

This section shall not prohibit, however, the sale or donation of such chickens, ducklings or other fowl to schools for use in classroom instruction.

Whoever violates the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars.



MDAR asks your cooperation during the Easter Season when selling baby chicks and ducklings. During this season some well-meaning individuals try to purchase animals intended as Easter presents.

Chicks and ducklings are extremely cute and fuzzy. Unfortunately, as they get older and louder they are not as cute and fuzzy.

Screening of potential chick sale customers is important. Unless adequate brooding, growing, equipment and housing facilities are provided the birds will suffer.

Mass. General Law Chapter 272, Section 80D, deals with the retail sales of baby chicks, and ducklings.



**For more information please contact**

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## Raising Healthy Baby Chicks, Ducklings, Goslings and Poults



## Management of Baby Chicks, Poults, Goslings, etc.

Day old Chicks, Poults, Goslings, etc. require the following.

### Fresh Water:

- Supply chicks, poults, goslings with clean, fresh, room temperature water.
- Provide ample waterer founts with bases for the number of chicks, poults, goslings. i.e. two 1 gallon founts with base per 50 chicks, poults, goslings etc.
- Adjust the height of the waterers as the birds grow to prevent litter from accumulating in water trough.
- Ensure that all the birds may drink at the same time by adding additional watering space as the birds grow.
- Prevent fecal contamination of water by providing waterers that birds cannot perch on.
- Avoid drowning hazards by using the correct size fount, preventing the chick from climbing inside the fount.
- Ensure a healthy start by adding vitamin supplements to the water.
- Clean waterers daily.



### Fresh, Dry Feed:

- Provide fresh feed appropriate for the species and age of bird you are raising.
- Supply enough feeder space so that all chicks, poults, goslings etc., can eat at the same time.
- Clean and disinfect feed troughs on a regular basis.

### Heat:

- Preheat the brooding area 24 hours prior to chick arrival.
- Measure temperature of pen at brooding level, no higher than 6" above the litter.
- Supply heat with either a heat lamp or a brooder stove. Correct temperature ranges are:
  - 95-100 F for Poults
  - 90-95 F for Chicks
  - 85-90F for Ducklings & Goslings
- Lower temperature 5 degrees each week.
- Behavior of the chicks is the best indicator for the correct brooding temperature.

### If the chicks are:

- Huddled under the brooder, the temperature is too cold.
- Dispersed evenly around the brooding area, the temperature is correct.
- Gathered around the edges of the brooder guard, the temperature is too hot.

### Dry, Clean Litter:

- Use clean litter. Provide a material that will not adversely affect the species using it.
- Determine the depth of the litter by the species being raised.
- Completely cover slick floor surfaces to prevent leg injuries in young birds.

### Clean Brooding Area:

- Clean and disinfect the area with an approved disinfectant prior to chick arrival. Allow ample time for the area to dry.
- Provide brooder guard at the correct height for the species being raised.
- Allow adequate space inside brooding area to prevent crowding of chicks.

### Shelter:

- Provide shelter that protects against predation and shelters the chicks from the weather.



## REMEMBER

**Wet Chick=Cold Chick=  
Sick Chick=Dead Chick**